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H – 1028

International Court of Justice

H1028 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

17 July 1946

COMMISSIONER: Mr. Taylor.

SA - STAHLHELM

(The Commission convened at 1015 hours)

MR. HAUFFE, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Remind the witness that he is still under oath. (Witness reminded.)

Proceed with the cross examination.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COL. GRIFFITH-JONES:

Q. Witness, I want you to explain to me exactly what the SA Reserve consisted of?

A. The SA Reserve consisted of members of the Stahlhelm of the age of 35 to 45. I have made a mistake, I thought it was the Wehr Stahlhelm. It was first the Wehr then from ages 35 to 45 the SA Reserve I and it was planned to create an SA Reserve II for men over 45 years of age.

Q. Perhaps you will remind me of what the Wehr consisted of?

A. The Wehr consisted of the Stahlhelm Jung and the sport units of the Stahlhelm up to the age of 35 years.

Q. What form of training did members of the Stahlhelm carry out? Was it exactly the same as the SA Training? I am talking of after they came under the SA.

H1028 - 0003

A. Yes, if you refer to that period than the training was the same as in the SA because we had no more authority over these units.

Q. Can you give me an approximate figure for the strength of the SA reserve?

A. In the whole Reich together there were about 500,000 transferred at that time into the SA.

Q. Can you tell me the strength of the SA Reserve?

A. The whole strength of the SA Reserve according to information we had received by Roehm was about 500 men in the Reich.

Q. What date was that?

A. The transfer took place in January 1934.

Q. And it was at that date you say the SA Reserve numbered 500?

A. Yes.

Q. Were there, apart from the Stahlhelm and the Wehr Stahlhelm, were there no other persons in the SA Reserve?

A. During the first period, No. La ter on, however, when the Stahlhelm was dissolved, than the SA itself sent some men into the reserves. These were the older men of the SA itself.

Q. Did SA men on reaching the age of 35 automatically go into the SA Reserve?

A. I have no knowledge as to how they handled it at the SA. There was only one thing that was certain at that time and that was that the Wehr Stahlhelm members who have reached their 35th year automatically returned to their old Stahlhelm organization. If I may add something, the SA Reserve I was taken from the ranks of the SA, that is to say the older men were no longer called SA Reserve I but plainly SA Reserve.

2

H1028 - 0004

Q. May I want to ask you about another matter. Were there any decrees passed in order to transfer the Stahlhelm to the SA?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were those decrees published?

A. They were sent to the Landsfuehrer by the usual official channels coming from the OSAF, that is the Supreme Command of the SA.

Q. Perhaps you have not quite understood what I mean, when I speak of the decrees I do not mean orders issued by high commands, but I mean official decrees.

A. As Hitler, besides being Supreme Commander of the SA, was Chief of the Government too all of his measures and decrees were at the same time official orders which were published in the papers as such.

Q. Orders of that kind were issued, were they, in order to transfer the Stahlhelm to the SA?

A. Yes.

Q. Now those orders did not, did they, lay down that all members - individual members of the Stahlhelm, - should become members of the SA?

A. If the regulations could be applied to the individual men, that is if this individual man was between the two age limits of 35 and 45, than he was automatically transferred from the Stahlhelm to the Reserve without taking any action himself.

Q. There was nothing to prevent anybody who did not wish to transfer from resigning?

A. It was practically impossible to resign from the SA.

Q. You yourself resigned, did you not?

A. I have never joined the SA.

H1028 -0005

Q. But you were a member of the Stahlhelm when the Stahlhelm was transferred to the SA?

A. Yes, but you must not get mixed up - only those men who were between 35 and 45 have been tra nsferred to form the SA I, the others remained in the old organization under the leadership of Seldte, the old Stahlhelm organization.

Q. And the old Stahlhelm organization continued to exist?

A. It continued to exist until the summer of 1935.

Q. And what happened to it then?

A. Then it was dissolved by decree of Hitler.

Q. It is not quite clear as to what the old Stahlhelm consisted of?

A. It consisted of such of our commands as were over 45 and of such as had not been able to enter the SA Reserve I because of illness or because they were too much taken up with their professional organization.

Q. And they were never transferred to the SA?

A. No.

Q. Well, now coming back to those who were not the old Stahlhelm, you yourself were a ember of the Stahlhelm and resigned from it on its transfer to the SA?

A. I was a Landsfuehrer of the Saxonia Stahlhelm and I have never joined the SA Reserve I and I have always remained a member of the Stahlhelm until it was dissolved.

Q. Yes, and any other member of the Stahlhelm could have done the same thing?

A. In so far as the comrades were within the limits of age between 35 and 45 years they had to join the SA according to the orders which were given out.

H1028 - 0006

Q. Yes, but you yourself did not join the SA?

A. I was a leader and I was over 45 years of age.

Q. Were you over 45 years of age in 1934?

A. Yes, I am 59 today.

Q. What was there to prevent members of the Stahlhelm under 35 years of age resigning when the Stahlhelm was transferred to the SA in 1934?

A. From the very moment on when the orders came out that the SA Reserve I was to be integrated it became very difficult and even very dangerous for any member of the Stahlhelm to resign their duties, because it was thought they would be shrinking their duties.

Q. When you say difficult, what kind of difficulties do you mean?

A. If a comrade would shirk this duty he would immediately come under the close watch and control of the organization.

Q. Apart from that there was no obstacle?

A. No, it was the threat of a boycott against all those who did not accept these measures.

Q. Now, you told us yesterday that you personall y did not go over to the SA because you disapproved of it and you wanted to set an example to others. Who were the others, the comrades you call them; who were they you referred to?

A. All the members of the Stahlhelm.

Q. Both those over and under 35 years of age?

A. Yes. There was, as I already pointed out, a possibility for those under 45 to get out of the transfer into the SA either by producing a medical certificate or by proving that they were too much taken up with their professional organizations, but that remained for only a very few cases.

H1028 - 0007

Q. But you were also setting an example to members of the Stahlhelm who were under 35?

A. Yes, because these members according to the rules and regulations were entitled to remain members of the Stahlhelm and attend the monthly meetings of these organization.

Q. But I understood you to say that members of the Stahlhelm who were under 35 had no alternative but to join the Stahlhelm?

A. No, it is correct that they had no alternative but to join the SA but according to the first regulations that had come out they were still entitled to remain in the old organization and attend the monthly meetings. May I add something. For us this regulation when it came out was quite clear to be meant only to deceive those young men because they wanted them to transfer over to the SA and later on this regulations was dropped all together.

Q. So that you wanted to set an example to them and also to encourage them also to resign and follow you as you said?

A. No, before all we wanted to maintain their conviction because we were convinced a t that time that one day or the other we should be able - together with the Wehrmacht - to overthrow the regime.

Q. I want to ask you about that, can you tell me quite shortly what it was about the regime of which you so deeply disapproved?

A. The totalairian claims of the Party; the taking away of all the rights of the citizens of the State; the forcing of the whole people into obedience. We old ex-service men were mortified that we were simply passed over in our claims which were quite legal and were on a merely democratic basis; we wanted to use only legal means.

H1028 - 0008

Q. It was apparent to everybody, wasn't it, that the Nazi Party were depriving citizens of their ordinary rights and that they were forcing people into obedience by force?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you also disapprove of their policy in respect to the Jews?

A. We disapproved completely of the Party's policy against the Jews.

Q. Did you also disapprove of the system of the Gestapo and the concentration camps that were set up?

A. We disapproved of those measures in the strongest way and may it be said that we members of the Stahlhelm have very often been just the victims of the Gestapo and concentration camps.

Q. And those systems of the Gestapo and concentration camps were well known to exist?

A. Yes. It was known.

Q. What part did the SA ~~xxxx~~ play in the Nazi system?

A. After 1933 the part played by the SA was rather limited. There is no doubt that Roehm wanted to form from the ranks of the SA the Wehrmacht for Hitler. This may be seen very clearly from the speech Roehm made at Freidrik-Rotha, where he said the following: The Wehrmacht has committed high treason and has to be removed, it is the SA man who is the future soldier of the Third Reich.

Q. Let me ask you more specifically about certain matters of the SA P arty. Did the SA take an active part in the persecution of the Jews?

A. I have no knowledge of particular examples but I know the SA always furnished the room protection and that wherever the Party manifested a movement the SA was there to protect the party.

H1028 - 0009

Q. Did they assist in the Nazi policy of suppressing religious services by interfering with priests and church services?

A. There again I can not recall specific examples but I may say I have known SA men who were altogether in favor of the church and did not ~~xkkampk~~ take part in what the Party organized against the church.

Q. But it was generally known that the SA as an organization did all they could to interfere with the work of the churches in Germany?

A. There is no doubt that later on the SA was ~~kka~~ an executive organ of the Party.

Q. When you say later on, do you mean throughout the years from 1934 to the beginning of the war?

A. Yes, as from 1933.

Q. And that they were an executive of the party was again apparent and generally recognized by everybody; is that not so?

A. Yes. Everybody could see that. May I add something to that point. After the P utsch of June 30, 1934, at least at first, the importance of the SA was strongly diminished.

Q. Did they recover themself?

A. The Chief of Staff Lutze has done everything later on to give the SA its old importance.

Q. As an executive organ of the Party, did the SA generally cooperate with the SD and the Gestapo?

A. No. Later on even there were scarcer correct relations between those two branches. No intimate relations anyhow.

Q. I want to ask you a word about the SA training after 1934. It was in effect military training, was it not?

H1028-0010

A. Most of the time it was Wehr sport training.

Q. Wehr sport training quite obviously designed as elementary military training?

A. As far as I know, we must not forget I have not taken part in this exercise of the SA. Primary emphasis was given to the physical instruction first of all. There were exercises to get familiar with the open field and there were exercises as permitted officially of shooting with small caliber.

Q. You need not worry about that because we know the details.

A. For an old soldier all these exercises were not to be taken seriously. They had something innocent and even ridiculous for us.

NO further questions.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

MR. Klefisch, do you have any redirect examination.

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

I have only a few questions.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

Q. There has been a question as to the strength of the Stahlhelm as it was transferred in 1934 to the SA. Furthermore it has been stated that the Wehr Stahlhelm has been transferred as a whole. How many members had the Wehr Stahlhelm?

A. The number of Wehr Stahlhelm members is the same, or about the same, as the number of men in the SA Reserve No. I, meaning half a million.

Q. That means that all the Stahlhelm members have been transferred into the SA Reserve I?

A. Yes.

H1028 - 0011

Q. That means that altogether one million of Stahlhelm members have been transferred into the SA, is that true?

A. Yes. It is correct that the Wehr Stahlhelm together with the SA was about one million.

Q. The Colonel has asked about the orders and decrees by which the transfer was arranged. Could you state exactly one or the most important decree dealing with the transfer?

A. The Jung Stahlhelm on June 21, 1933 and the Wehr Stahlhelm in the late Autumn of 1933. The SA reserve I was reported as transferred by an official report of Roehm to Hitler in the Kaiserhof, Berlin on January 22 or 23, 1934.

Q. Do you know of the official order or decree dealing with that particular transfer in January 1934?

A. Yes. It was published several days later, I think on January 25 or 26.

Q. Was it the opinion of your circles that by this decree the transfer of the SA Reserve I had become effective automatically?

A. Yes.

Q. Furthermore, the Colonel has asked what the Stahlhelm consisted of after 1934. The witness has answered that it was composed of the older members of the Stahlhelm over 45. I ask now whether the transferred Kern Stahlhelm members of the nucleus of the Stahlhelm did not belong to this Stahlhelm?

A. I have already stated that both the Wehr Stahlhelm and the SA Reserve I were entitled to remain members of the Stahlhelm at the same time.

XX Later on the Party, that is the SA, has broken these agreements.

Q. But it is not correct that the members of the Kern Stahlhelm, that

H1028 - 0012

is the Stahlhelm members aged from 35 to 45, remained members of the Stahlhelm?

A. According to the orders that were issued, automatically.

Q. That means that they continued to belong to the Stahlhelm?

A. Yes.

Q. Only one more question as to the possibility of resigning. You have just stated, Witness, that members that resigned were boycotted?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know that according to the organization charter of the SA such a resignation was impossible?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you know the wording of this regulation?

A. On page 14 of this charter one can read that the oath of allegiance sworn by the SA ~~xxxx~~ binds a man for his whole life with the Fuehrer and makes resignation impossible.

Q. But what happened if somebody filed an application to resign from the SA?

A. If the application was based on good reasons of health and it was justified by these reasons, then the appliant could get his discharge.

Q. What happened if there were no medical reasons?

A. Either he was severdy admonished and the application was done away with in that way, or he was expelled from the SA because this application for discharge was considered an act of opposition against the Party.

Q. Did one not distrust especially the applications for discharge of transferred Stahlhelm members?

H1028 - 0013

A. Yes. Because the Stahlhelm was considered again and again the nucleus of opposition against the P arty.

Q. Was the exclusion from the SA possibly accompanied by loss of the job as official or of the economical existence in a general way?

A. Yes, I have heard a decree of the Landesverbanden of the year of 1935 in which it is stated that any one who was expelled from the SA could not have a job in a community of the State.

BY COL. GRIFFITH-JONES:

Q. What do you mean by community of the State?

A. In a locality of the State.

Q. By State do you mean the German State or a State?

A. Here is mentioned only the State in the more restricted sense. Here it is only the State of Hanover.

Q. Perhaps you will read the translation once again.

A. It is a decree of the Landesverbanden of the year of 1935 and according to which an SA man that has been expelled from the SA can not have an official job in a locality of the State (of Hanover).

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

Q. ~~Xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Have there been many cases in which resigned SA men have been endangered strongly or even have lost their economical existence?

A. Such cases have existed in all of the Landesverbanden.

Q. Have there been arrests in connection with resignations from the SA?

A. Yes.

Q. Many arrests?

A. In the one letter written by the Bundesliquidator gruss, 500

H1028 - 0014

Stahlhelm members have been mentioned which were under arrest.

Q. Isn't it correct that the Stahlhelm members who had been transferred into the SA did for this reason not dare any more to file an application for discharge.

A. Yes. The individual which had the fear that they would lose their profession and very existence were so scared of the terror that they did not dare file an application any more.

Q. One more last question. You have testified that both the Kern Stahlhelm and the Wehr Stahlhelm had received a promise at first that they were to maintain their automony within the ranks of the SA. Have not there been official regulations or decrees which prohibited all interferences in the internal matters of the Stahlhelm by the SA and the NSDAP?

A. Yes. There is an order by the OSAF (Supreme Command of the SA) according to which the SA, SS and the NSDAP should refrain from interfering into interior matters of the Bund.

Q. And all these regulations and orders have not been respected?

A. We were always under the impression that all these regulations and decrees that were issued had only one meaning and that was to slowly kill the old Bund. We never trusted these decrees. We just saw a means of deceiving in them. Every new decree broke a piece of the old building of the Stahlhelm Bund. We had no support from our Bundsfuehrer Seldte. All these regulations were only steps and passages on the sad way of the Stahlhelm. We have opposed this aggression with all our might. We remained in the Bund in the belief that one day the Wehrmacht would join us. In that way the history of the Stahlhelm eventually turned into a tragedy and the Wehrmacht has gone the same way later on.

H1028 – 0015

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Any more cross examination.

BY COL. GRIFFITH-JONES:

No.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

The witness will be excused.

Mr. Klefisch, do you have some more witnesses.

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

I have only one more witness and I have arranged with Col. Neave yesterday that I might be permitted to choose one of the three remaining witnesses. Yesterday one member was to come from Berlin but he has not arrived yet. The question now is, is the second witness to be questioned right now or may he be questioned this afternoon?

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

We would like to proceed after the recess ~~on an examination~~ if it is possible.

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

Yes. Thank you.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

The commission will recess.

(Commission recessed at 1130 hours)

Com. B.
Take 1 - P. 15
Roberts
17 July 46
Mr. Hauffe

H1028 - 0016

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of MA RTIN HAUFFE, taken on 17 July 1946.

Evelyn M. Roberts
Reporter (pp. 1 - 14)

~~Reporter (pp.~~)

~~Reporter (pp.~~)

CERTIFIED TO:

Geo R Taylor
Commissioner

~~Commissioner~~

H1028 - 0017

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

COMMISSIONER:

Mr. Geo. R. Taylor.

SA - STAHLHELM

(The Commission convened at 1015 hours.)

MR. HAUFFE, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Remind the witness that he is s till under oath. (Witness reminded)

Proceed with the cross examination.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COL. GRIFFITH-JONES:

Q Witness, I want you to explain to me exactly what the SA Reserve consisted of?

A The SA Reserve consisted of members of the Stahlhelm of the age of 3 to 45. I have made a mistake, I thought it was the Wehr Stahlhelm. It was first the Wehr then from ages 35 to 45 the SA Reserve I and it was planned to create an SA Reserve II for men over 45 years of age.

Q Perhaps you will remind me of what the Wehr consisted of?

A The Wehr consisted of the Stahlhelm Jung and the sport units of the Stahlhelm up to the age of 35 years.

Q What form of training did members of the Stahlhelm carry out? Was it exactly the same as the SA Training? I am talking of after they came unde the SA.

A Yes, if you refer to that period then the training was the same as in the SA because we had no more authority over these units.

Q Can you give me an approximate figure for the strength of the SA reserve?

A In the whole Reich together there were about 500,000 transferred at that time into the SA.

Q Can you tell me the s trength of the SA Reserve?

H1028 - 0018

A The whole strength of the SA Reserve according to information we had received by Roehm was about 500 men in the Reich.

Q What date was that?

A The transfer took place in January 1934.

Q And it was at that date you say the SA Reserve numbered 500?

A Yes.

Q Were there, apart from the Stahlhelm and the Wehr Stahlhelm, were there no other persons in the SA Reserve?

A During the first period, No. Later on, however, when the Stahlhelm was dissolved then the SA itself sent some men into the reserves. These were the older men of the SA itself.

Q Did SA men on reaching the age of 35 automatically go into the SA Reserve?

A I have no knowledge as to how they handled it at the SA. There was only one thing that was certain at that time and that was that the Wehr Stahlhelm members who have reached their 35th year automatically returned to their old Stahlhelm organization. I may add something, the SA Reserve I was taken from the ranks of the SA, that is to say the older men were no longer called SA Reserve I but plainly SA Reserve.

Q I want to ask you about another matter. Were there any decrees passed in order to transfer the Stahlhelm to the SA?

A Yes.

Q Where were these decrees published?

A They were sent to the Landsfuehrer by the usual official channels coming from the OSAF, that is the Supreme Command of the SA.

Q Perhaps you have not quite understood what I mean, when I speak of the decrees I do not mean orders issued by high commands, but I mean official decrees.

A As Hitler, besides being Supreme Commander of the SA, was Chief of the Government too all of his measures and decrees were at the same time official orders which were published in the papers as such.

Q Orders of that kind were issued, were they, in order to transfer the Stahlhelm to the SA?

H1028 - 0019

A Yes.

Q Now those orders did not, did they, lay down that all members -- individual members of the Stahlhelm -- should become members of the SA?

A If the regulations could be applied to the individual men, that is if this individual man was between the two age limits of 35 and 45, then he was automatically transferred from the Stahlhelm to the Reserve without takin any action himself.

Q There was nothing to prevent anybody who did not wish to transfer from resigning?

A It was practically impossible to resign from the SA.

Q You yourself resigned, did you not?

A I have never joined the SA.

Q But you were a member of the Stahlhelm when the Stahlhelm was transferred to the SA?

A Yes, but you must not get mixed up -- only those men who were betwee 35 and 45 have been transferred to form the SA II, the others remained in the old organization under the leadership of Seldte, the old Stahlhelm organization.

Q And the old Stahlhelm organization continued to exist?

A It continued to exist until the summer of 1935.

Q And what happened to it then?

A Then it was dissolved by decree of Hitler.

Q It is not quite clear as to what the old Stahlhelm consisted of?

A It consisted of such of our commands as were over 45 and of such as had not been able to enter the SA Reserve I because of illness or because they were too much taken up with their professional organization.

Q And they were never transferred to the SA?

A No.

Q Well, now coming back to those who were not the old Stahlhelm, you yourself were a member of the Stahlhelm and resigned from it on its transfer to the SA?

A I was a Landsfuehrer of the Saxonia Stahlhelm and I have never joine the SA Reserve I and I have always remained a member of the Stahlhelm until

H1028 - 0020

it was dissolved.

Q Yes, and any other member of the Stahlhelm could have done the same thing?

A In so far as the comrades were within the limits of age between 35 and 45 years they had to join the SA according to the orders which were given out.

Q Yes, but you yourself did not join the SA?

A I was a leader and I was over 45 years of age.

Q Were you over 45 years of age in 1934?

A Yes, I am 59 today.

Q What was there to prevent members of the Stahlhelm under 35 years of age resigning when the Stahlhelm was transferred to the SA in 1934?

A From the very moment on when the orders came out that the SA Reserve I was to be integrated it became very difficult and even very dangerous for any member of the Stahlhelm to resign their duties, because it was thought they would be shrinking their duties.

Q When you say difficult, what kind of difficulties do you mean?

A If a comrade would shirk this duty he would immediately come under the close watch and control of the organization.

Q Apart from that there was no obstacle?

A No, it was the threat of a boycott against all those who did not accept these measures.

Q Now, you told us yesterday that you personally did not go over to the SA because you disapproved of it and you wanted to set an example to others. Who were the others, the comrades you call them; who were they you referred to?

A All the members of the Stahlhelm.

Q Both those over and under 35 years of age?

A Yes. There was, as I already pointed out, a possibility for those under 45 to get out of the transfer into the SA either by producing a medical certificate or by proving that they were too much taken up with their professional organizations, but that remained for only a very few cases.

Q But you were also setting an example to members of the Stahlhelm who

H1028 - 0021

were under 35?

A Yes, because these members according to the rules and regulations were entitled to remain members of the Stahlhelm and attend the monthly meetings of these organization.

Q But I understood you to say that members of the Stahlhelm who were under 35 had no alternative but to join the Stahlhelm?

A No, it is correct that they had no alternative but to join the SA but according to the first regulations that had come out they were still entitled to remain in the old organization and attend the monthly meetings. May I add something. For us this regulation when it came out was quite clear to be meant only to deceive these young men because they wanted them to transfer over to the SA and later on this regulation was dropped all together.

Q So that you wanted to set an example to them and also to encourage them also to resign and follow you as you said?

A No, before all we wanted to maintain their conviction because we were convinced at that time that one day or the otherwe should be able -- together with the Wehrmacht -- to overthrow the regime.

Q I want to ask you about that, can you tell me quite shortly what it was about the regime of which you so deeply disapproved?

A The totalitarian claims of the Party; the taking away of all the rights of the citizens of the State; the forcing of the whole people into obedience. We old ex-service men were mortified that we were simply passed over in our claims which were quite legal and were on a merely democratic basis; we wanted to use only legal means.

Q It was apparent to everybody, wasn't it, that the Nazi Party were depriving citizens of their ordinary rights and that they were forcing people into obedience by force?

A Yes.

Q Did you also disapprove of their policy in respect to the Jews?

A We disapproved completely of the Party's policy against the Jews.

Q Did you also disapprove of the system of the Gestapo and the concentration camps that were set up?

A We disapproved of those measures in the strongest way and may it be said that we members of the Stahlhelm have very often been just the victims of the Gestapo and concentration camps.

Q And those systems of the Gestapo and concentration camps were well known to exist?

A Yes. It was known.

Q What part did the SA play in the Nazi system?

A After 1933 the part played by the SA was rather limited. There is no doubt that Roehm wanted to form from the ranks of the SA the Wehrmacht for Hitler. This may be seen very clearly from the speech Roehm made at Freidrek-Rotha, where he said the following: The Wehrmacht has committed high treason and has to be removed, it is the SA man who is the future soldier of the Third Reich.

Q Let me ask you more specifically about certain matters of the SA Party. Did the SA take an active part in the persecution of the Jews?

A I have no knowledge of particular examples but I know the SA always furnished the room protection and that wherever the Party manifested a movement the SA was there to protect the party.

Q Did they assist in the Nazi policy of suppressing religious services by interfering with priests and church services?

H1028 - 0022

H1028 - 0023

A There again I cannot recall specific examples but I may say I have known SA men who were altogether in favor of the church and did not take part in what the Party organized against the church.

Q But it was generally known that the SA as an organization did all they could to interfere with the work of the churches in Germany?

A There is no doubt that later on the SA was an executive organ of the Party.

Q When you say later on, do you mean throughout the years from 1934 to the beginning of the war?

A Yes, as from 1933.

Q And that they were an executive of the party was again apparent and generally recognized by everybody; is that not so?

A Yes. Everybody could see that. May I add something to that point. After the Putsch of June 30, 1934, at least at first, the importance of the SA was strongly diminished.

Q Did they recover themself?

A The Chief of Staff Lutze has done everything later on to give the SA its old importance.

Q As an executive organ of the Party, did the SA generally cooperate with the SD and the Gestapo?

A No. Later on even there were scarcer correct relations between those two branches. No intimate relations anyhow.

Q I want to ask you a word about the SA training after 1934. It was in effect military training, was it not?

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H1028 - 0024

Q You need not worry about that because we know the details.

A For an old soldier all these exercises were not to be taken seriously. They had something innocent and even ridiculous for us.

No further question.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Mr. Klefisch, do you have any redirect examination?

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

I have only a few questions.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

Q There has been a question as to the strength of the Stahlhelm as it was transferred in 1934 to the SA. Furthermore it has been stated that the Wehr Stahlhelm has been transferred as a whole. How many members had the Wehr Stahlhelm?

A The number of Wehr Stahlhelm members is the same, or about the same, as the number of men in the SA Reserve No. 1, meaning half a million.

Q That means that all the Stahlhelm members have been transferred into the SA Reserve I?

A Yes.

Q That means that altogether one million of Stahlhelm members have been transferred into the SA, is that true?

A Yes. It is correct that the Wehr Stahlhelm together with the SA was about one million.

Q The Colonel has asked about the orders and decrees by which the transfer was arranged. Could you state exactly one or the most important decree dealing with the transfer?

A The Jung Stahlhelm on June 21, 1933, and the Wehr Stahlhelm in the late Autumn of 1933. The SA reserve I was reported as transferred by an official report of Roehm to Hitler in the Kaiserhof, Berlin on January 22 or 23, 1934.

Q Do you know of the official order or decree dealing

H1028 - 0025

with that particular transfer in January 1934?

A Yes. It was published several days later, I think on January 25 or 26.

Q Was it the opinion of your circles that by this decree the transfer of the SA Reserve I had become effective automatically?

A Yes.

Q Furthermore, the Colonel has asked what the Stahlhelm consisted of after 1934. The witness has answered that it was composed of the older members of the Stahlhelm over 45. I ask now whether the transferred Kern Stahlhelm members of the nucleus of the Stahlhelm did not belong to this Stahlhelm?

A I have already stated that both the Wehr Stahlhelm and the SA Reserve I were entitled to remain members of the Stahlhelm at the same time. Later on the Party, that is the SA, has broken those agreements.

Q But it is not correct that the members of the Kern Stahlhelm, that

H1028 - 0026

is the Stahlhelm members aged from 35 to 45, remained members of theStahlhelm?

A According to the orders that wereissued, automatically.

Q That means that they continued to belong to the Stahlhelm?

A Yes.

Q Only one more question as to the possibility of resigning. You have just stated, Witness, that members that resigned were boycotted?

A Yes.

Q Do you know that according to the organization charter of the SA such a resignation was impossible?

A Yes.

Q Do you know the wording of this regulation?

A On page 14 of this charter one can read that the oath of allegiance sworn by the SA binds a man for his whole life with the Fuehrer and makes resignation impossible.

Q But what happened if somebody filed an application to resign from the SA?

A If the application was based on good reasons of health and it was justified by these reasons, then the applicant could get his discharge.

Q What happened if there were no medical reasons?

A Either he was severely admonished and the application was done away with in that way, or he was expelled from the SA because this application for discharge was considered an act of opposition against the Party.

Q Did one not distrust especially the applications for discharge of transferred Stahlhelm members?

A Yes. Because the Stahlhelm was considered again and again the nucleus of opposition against the Party.

Q Was the exclusion from the SA possibly accompanied by loss of the job as official or of the economical existence in a general way?

A Yes, I have heard a decree of the Landesverbanden of the year of 1935 in which it is stated that anyone who was expelled from the SA could not have ajob in the community of the state.

H1028 - 0027

BY COL. GRIFFITH JONES:

Q What do you mean by community of the State?

A In a locality of the State.

Q By State do you mean the German State or a State?

A Here is mentioned only the State in the more restricted sense. Here it is only the State of Hanover.

Q Perhaps you will read the translation once again.

A It is adecree of the Landesverbanden of the year of 1935 and according to which an SA man that has been expelled from the SA can not have an official job in a locality of the State (of Hanover).

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

Q Have there been many cases in which resigned SA men have been endangered strongly or even have lost their economical existence?

A Such cases have existed in all of the Landesverbanden.

Q Have there been arrests in connection with resignations from the SA?

A Yes.

Q Many arrests?

A In the one letter written by the Bundesliquidator gruss, 500 Stahlhelm members have been mentioned which were under arrest.

Q Isn't it correct that theStahlhelm members who had been transferred into the SA did for this reason not dare any more to file an application for discharge?

A Yes. The individual which had the fear that they would lose their profession and very existence were so scared of the terror that they did not dare file an application any more.

Q One morelast question. You have testified that both the Kern Stahlhelm and the Wehr Stahlhelm had received a promise at first that they were to maintain their autonomy within the ranks of the SA. Have not there been official regulations or decrees which prohibited all interferences in the internal matters of the Stahlhelm by the SA and the NSDAP?

A Yes. There is an order by the OSAF (Supreme Command of the SA) according to which the SA, SS andthe NSDAP should refrain from interfering into interior matters of the Bund.

H1028-0028

Q And all these regulations and orders have not been respected?

A We were always under the impression that all these regulations and decrees that were issued had only one meaning and that was to slowly kill the old Bund. We never trusted these decrees. We just saw a means of deceiving in them. Every new decree broke a piece of the old building of the Stahlhelm Bund. We had no support from our Bundsfuehrer Seldte. All these regulations were only steps and passageways on the sad day of the Stahlhelm. We have opposed this aggression with all our might. We remained in the Bund in the belief that one day the Wehrmacht would join us. In that way the history of the Stahlhelm eventally turned into a tragedy and the Wehrmacht has gone the same way later on.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Any more cross examinations?

BY COL. GRIFFITH JONES:

No.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

The witness will be excused.

Mr. Klefisch, do you have some more witnesses?

BY MR. KLEFISCH:

I have only one more witness and I have arran ed with Col. Neave yesterday that I might be permitted to choose one of the three remaining witnesses. Yesterday one member was to come from Berlin but he has not arrived yet. The question now is, is the second witness to be questioned right now or may he be questioned this afternoon?

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

We would like to proceed after the recess if it is possible.

BY MR. KELFISCH:

Yes, thank you.

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

The commission will recess.

(A commission recessed at 1130 hours)

H1028 - 0029

17 July 1946-EMR-4

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of thetestimony of MARTIN HAUFLE, taken on 17 July 1946.

Evelyn M. Roberts
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Geo. R. Taylor
Commissioner